

# As SACS Becomes Reality, KY Tech Gears Up for New School Year

First and foremost, I want to take this opportunity to say – Welcome Back! I hope you had a wonderful summer and are ready to begin the 2005-06 school year on an enthusiastic note.

While the beginning of any school year holds new challenges, we take great pride in the fact that the KY Tech System of Schools has been accepted as a candidate for Southern Association of Colleges and Schools/Council on Accreditation and School Improvement (SACS/CASI)

Accreditation. *Our goal is for the Office of Career and Technical Education (OCTE) to become the first nationally accredited*

*“District” of area technology centers. This means each ATC will be accredited if the OCTE “District” becomes accredited. Make no mistake - this is a systemic priority.*



OCTE Executive Director Emil Jezik

**We are in a position to become nationally accredited because of the solid foundation this system is built upon – something that each of us can take pride in knowing. The good news is that we have all collectively elevated the KY Tech System of Schools in national stature through three major systemic components:**

**1. Commitment to Standards – OCTE has a systemic vision, mission and set of goals. Based on this uniformity, school goals are created to reflect local strategies to reach district goals. As well, KY Tech has a standardized statewide curriculum, which ensures consistency and continuity in program content and alignment throughout the district.**

**2. Continuous Improvement – Using input from steering and advisory committee members, each school has continuous and program improvement planning processes in place to create an environment for continuous improvement.**

**3. Quality Assurance – Our OCTE Program Assessment process provides us with a ready-made accountability system that has been favorably received by SACS.**

**It is because of OCTE's systemic components (listed above) that we are able to address the three major SACS/CASI principles for district accreditation.**

**All ATC principals have been involved in two in-depth informational and roll up your sleeves meetings this summer. On behalf of the entire OCTE central office, I want to personally thank everyone for his or her efforts and hard work.**

**During the June 15 meeting at General Butler State Park, we experienced an historic moment – we actually reached candidacy status for SACS/CASI accreditation. Each ATC principal signed and submitted his or her school's accreditation application to the OCTE management team. OCTE Division Director John Marks and Karen Bothun were instrumental in coordinating events and activities to bring us up to this point.**

**It was then my great pleasure to sign the “KY Tech District” application and hand over the entire set of paperwork to Dr. Robert Storer and Thomas E. Jones, who are the SACS – KY/CASI State Co-Chairmen.**



**Executive Director Emil Jezik signs the KY Tech District application. Deputy Lewis Carter and John Marks watch this historic moment.**



**SACS –KY CASI State Co-Chair Dr. Storer accepts KY Tech District application from Executive Director Emil Jezik.**





Photo at left: OCTE Executive Director Emil Jezik and Bullitt Co. ATC Principal Linda Sosnin with framed copy of vision, mission and goals.

**I also want to use this forum to thank Bullitt Co. ATC Principal Linda Sosnin and Graphic Technology Instructor Ed Reesor for their efforts in completing a special project to provide each ATC with a framed copy of the vision, mission and goals.**

**Prior to the second meeting, ATC principals completed their respective “School Improvement Annual Progress Report.” During summer conference, Dr. Storer and Mr. Jones were once again called upon to help ATC principals.**



**Dr. Robert Storer watches Letcher Co. ATC Principal Barbara Ison and Belfry ATC Principal Annette Ward sign their respective SACS accreditation application.**



**Dr. Robert Storer, seated at the computer, goes over some electronic assessment information with OCTE Executive Director Emil Jezik, C.E. McCormick ATC Principal Joe Amann, and Division Director John Marks. The principals meeting took place at the Jefferson Community and Technical College during summer conference.**

**This session involved the SACS-CASI Electronic Self Assessment computerized process where the principals entered their school improvement progress report into the system. All things considered, we have set a benchmark and will continue to raise the level over this next year. All of us will be called upon to do our part to ensure that we are successfully meeting the standards for accreditation**



**Let us all remember that our vision is, “To be an educational system which serves the needs of all students pursuing technical education and skills training.” Our established mission and goals also remain the same, as well as our primary responsibility – serving secondary students.**

### **Retirements and New Leadership**

**We have had some leadership changes in three of our area technology centers as a result of retirements. Boone Co. ATC Principal Al Tucker, Lake Cumberland ATC Principal Chester Taylor, and Mayfield/Graves Co. ATC Principal Roger Pierce retired at the end of this past school year. We wish them well.**

**We welcome Steve Arant as the new Mayfield/Graves Co. ATC principal. Steve was formerly a carpentry instructor at the Murray/Calloway Co. ATC. Also, for those of you who do not know, Stacy Imel was hired as the new principal of the Knox Co. ATC when Linda Floyd became an area supervisor.**

**KY Tech Area Supervisor Linda Floyd and Corbin ATC Principal Ronnie Partin during a work session at General Butler.**



**In the OCTE central office, we are also feeling the effects of retirements. We wish Stan Carton, Business and Industry branch manager and Tech Prep Administrative Consultant Charlene Baxter the best as they enter into a new phase in their lives. For those of you who have not heard, Stan was hit by a truck while jogging just before his official retirement date. He suffered a broken leg that required extensive surgery and is now on the mend at home.**

**We also want to take this opportunity to wish the best of luck to all of the teachers who retired at the end of the year. We have and continue to be busy trying to fill those positions.**



**John Marks addresses principals during SACS/CASI meeting in Louisville.**

## **Kentucky Employees Charitable 2005 Campaign (KECC)**

**As you may know, every year KECC gives state employees the opportunity to give to the charity of their choice.**

**What you might not know is - KECC is a campaign created by state employees and run by state employees. Since 1993, KECC has provided the opportunity for state employees to contribute to eligible charitable organizations.**

**KECC is a partnership of six accredited statewide charities that help make sure Kentucky's health and human service needs are being met.**

**More than a thousand charitable programs are represented by the 6 KECC partner charities.**



**In order for this campaign to be a success, we need the help of everyone. As an office, which includes all 53 ATCs, we have been given a goal of raising \$17,550.**

**The easiest way to give is through payroll deduction. It's simple and spreads out**



the pledge throughout the year. However, some people prefer to make a lump sum payment at the beginning of the campaign. And, that's OK too. Please take this goal seriously.

On a final note, I want to relay that over the years you have done a wonderful job of becoming involved in community projects, developing relationships with business and industry, providing an opportunity for our students to develop leadership skills through student organization activities and helping our students to become valuable members of society. We must always strive to exceed what we have accomplished in the past and I'm confident that we can and will. Have a good year.



**Good News Flash #125**  
**August 1, 2005**

